

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 295

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Connie J. Smith for her outstanding contribution to education in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as educational leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Connie J. Smith, Executive Director of Innovation, Improvement, and Accountability for the Department of Education, who has recently been selected to receive the Dr. John M. Davis Distinguished Educational Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, presented annually by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Davis Distinguished Educational Achievement Awards are given to one outstanding individual from each SACS state in recognition of their contributions to education, for making a significant impact on the education profession, and achievements toward educational change and improvement; and

WHEREAS, during her more than thirty years with the Department of Education, Dr. Connie Smith has lent her talents to such notable contributions to education as the development of the Tennessee School Improvement Planning Process; and

WHEREAS, during her professional career Dr. Smith has also served as a special education teacher, principal, superintendent, and Associate Executive Director of the Tennessee School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, in her current position, Dr. Smith administers the state Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) program, which is housed in the Department of Education's

Office of Innovation, Improvement, and Accountability; since her role with SACS began in 1995, participation by Tennessee schools has tripled; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of two Tennessee universities, Tennessee Tech University and Vanderbilt University, Dr. Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Connie J. Smith for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Connie J. Smith for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.